

Zika virus testing – what laboratorians need to know

Prior to approving a patient for Zika virus testing, Public Health needs ALL the following information listed below. Please ensure the patient's health care provider has called the district epidemiologist, DPH Epidemiology at 404-657-2588 during business hours, or 866-PUB-HLTH (866-782-4584) after hours to obtain approval before the specimen is shipped. Specimens shipped without prior approval will not be tested.

1. Patient Name
2. Patient date of birth
3. Gender (if female, pregnant y/n)
4. Patient address
5. Country to where the patient traveled
6. Travel dates (need specific dates)
7. If ill, date of symptom onset
8. Symptoms
9. *If the patient is pregnant, CDC will test asymptomatic pregnant women if travel occurred in the past 2-12 weeks to a country on the CDC zika transmission area list (found at <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>). DPH Epidemiology will determine if testing is appropriate.
10. *If the patient reports they are a sexual contact of a suspect or confirmed Zika case, DPH will determine if testing is appropriate.
11. Clinical questions may be triaged by epidemiology at any time, but paperwork for sample shipment can only be processed during normal business hours. A sample of .5 mL of serum can be collected by your facility after hours for a suspect case and held until the next business day for processing.

Epidemiology will fax the appropriate requisition forms after the patient is approved for testing. If you have any questions please contact Amanda Feldpausch, Shawna Feinman, or Julie Gabel at 404-657-2588.

